

Dear Regional 303(d) and TMDL and Monitoring Coordinators –

I'm pleased to provide for Regional Review the Draft 2016 Integrated Report Memo. As you are aware, the memo addresses the following topics:

- *Implementation of the Clean Water Act 303(d) Program Vision* (e.g., discuss long-term prioritization, clarify what is meant by alternative restoration approaches)
- *Continue identifying nutrient-impacted waters for the Section 303(d) list for States without numeric nutrient water quality criteria* (e.g., discuss importance to continue to work on this area and remind folks of the examples provided in the 2014 IR Memo)
- *Implementation of the Water Quality Framework: Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS)* (e.g., discuss importance of state-scale statistical surveys, update to the variable portion of the FY 2017 CWA Section 106 grant allocation formula, and the ATTAINS Redesign)
- *Clarification on the assessment and assignment of waters to Category 4C*

We appreciate the work of Regions 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 on the topic, “*Clarification on the assessment and assignment of waters to Category 4C*”, and we would appreciate everyone taking a moment to respond to the following questions on this section:

- EPA is re-stating what has been said in past guidance, so is this guidance written clearly so your states can effectively implement it?
 - How will the states in your Region perceive this 4C guidance, and why?
 - If the reaction is positive, will the reaction be of the nature that this guidance will, for example, help states more accurately identify where waters should be placed within the Integrated Report, clean-up Category 5 where applicable, or help in efforts to more accurately identify underlying causes of impairment?
 - If the reaction is negative, will the reaction be of the nature that this guidance will, for example, require more work for states, or raise concerns about how to effectively implement?
- 3) To what extent will this guidance change the way the states in your Region assess and assign waters to Category 4C?

Please send your comments and edits on the draft IR Memo (one set of comments per Region, if possible), as well as answers to the questions on the Category 4C topic to Shera Reems at reems.shera@epa.gov by Friday, May 22.